

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT  
COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT  
OF TEXAS McALLEN DIVISION**

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

**Criminal No. M-23-1248-S3**

**KEVIN URIEL GARZA  
REBECA MALDONADO  
VANESSA RAMOS-BARRERA  
ANASTACIO RUIZ, JR.  
CARLOS ENRIQUE ACOSTA**

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**SEALED THIRD SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT**

## **THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:**

## **Count One**

From on or about December 13, 2022 and continuing through on or about September 29, 2023 in the Southern District of Texas, defendants,

**and  
ANASTACIO RUIZ, JR.**

did knowingly combine, conspire, and agree with each other and with other persons known and unknown to the grand jury to commit offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A), to wit: to transport, transmit, transfer, or attempt to transport, transmit, or transfer a monetary instrument or funds from a place outside the United States to or through a place inside the United States with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, namely, the smuggling of items controlled under regulations under the Export Administration Regulations listed at 15 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 730-774 contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 554 and violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 932.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

**Count Two**

On or about December 13, 2022 through on or about September 29, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants,

[REDACTED]  
**ANASTACIO RUIZ, JR.**  
**and**  
**CARLOS ENRIQUE ACOSTA**

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jurors, to conspire to purchase any firearm in or otherwise affecting interstate or foreign commerce for, on behalf of, or at the request or demand of any other person, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such other person intends to use, carry, possess, sell or otherwise dispose of the firearm in furtherance of a felony, namely violations of Title 18 United States Code Section 554.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 932(b)(2).

**Count Three**

From on or about December 13, 2022 through on or about September 29, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendants,

[REDACTED]  
**and**  
**ANASTACIO RUIZ, JR.**

did fraudulently and knowingly receive, conceal, buy, sell, or in any manner facilitate the transportation, concealment, or sale of any merchandise, article, or object, to wit: namely multiple firearms and thousands of rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, prior to exportation, knowing the same to be intended for exportation contrary to any law or regulation of the United States, namely, without a license or written approval from the United States Department of Commerce, as required by Title 50, United States Code, Sections 4819 and Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 730-774.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 554(a) and 2.

**Count Four**

On or about September 28, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ANASTACIO RUIZ, JR.**

received and possessed a firearm, namely, a Harrington & Richardson, Model 88, 12 gauge shotgun having a barrel of less than 18 inches in length, not registered to Defendant in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Sections 5841, 5845(a)(1), 5861(d), and 5871.

**Count Five**

From on or about February 7, 2023 through at least August 18, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**KEVIN URIEL GARZA**

did fraudulently and knowingly receive, conceal, buy, sell, or in any manner facilitate the transportation, concealment, or sale of any merchandise, article, or object, to wit: approximately 11,480 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, 11,220 rounds of 7.62x39mm caliber ammunition, 4,000 rounds of 5.56mm caliber ammunition; and 3,000 rounds of .38 super caliber ammunition, prior to exportation, knowing the same to be intended for exportation contrary to any law or regulation of the United States, namely, without a license or written approval from the United States Department of Commerce, as required by Title 50, United States Code, Sections 4819 and Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 730-774.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 554(a) and 2.

**Count Six**

On or about July 8, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendant,

**REBECA MALDONADO**

knowingly made a false statement and representation to Carter's Country #03, a federally licensed firearm dealer in Pasadena, Texas, with respect to information required to be kept in the records of said federally licensed firearms dealer, in that the Defendant did execute a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Form 4473, Firearms Transaction Record, in connection with the acquisition of a Beretta USA Corp, Model 92X, 9mm caliber pistol by representing on the Form 4473:

- (a) that her residence and address was at specified address in Baytown, Texas, when in truth and fact it was not her residence or address; and
- (b) by representing that she was the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm when in truth and fact she was not the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(a)(1)(A).

**Counts Seven through Eleven**

On the following dates, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**VANESSA RAMOS-BARRERA**

knowingly made a false statement and representation to Glick Twins, a federally licensed firearm dealer in Pharr, Texas, intended or likely to deceive said federal firearms dealer with respect to any fact material to the lawfulness of the sale or disposition of a firearm to be acquired from said federal firearms dealer, in that the Defendant did execute a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Form 4473, Firearms Transaction Record, by representing on the Form 4473:

- (a) that her residence and address was at specified address in Channelview, Texas, when in truth and fact it was not her residence or address; and
- (b) by representing that she was the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm when in truth and fact she was not the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm.

Count	Date	Firearm to be Acquired
7	December 6, 2022	Romarm CAI, Model Micro Draco, 7.62 caliber pistol
8	December 28, 2022	Riley Defense, RAK-47, 7.62x39mm caliber rifle
9	February 28, 2023	Glock, Model 42, .380 caliber pistol and a Smith & Wesson, Model .380 Shield, .380 caliber pistol
10	January 24, 2023	Taurus, Model TX22, .22LR caliber pistol and a Ruger, Model LCP, .380 caliber pistol
11	February 15, 2023	Glock, Model 48, 9mm caliber pistol and a Ruger, Model LCP II, .380 caliber pistol

Each in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(6).

**Count Twelve**

From on or about December 6, 2022 through on or about February 16, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendants,

**VANESSA RAMOS-BARRERA**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

did fraudulently and knowingly export and send from the United States or attempt to export and send from the United States to the United Mexican States, any merchandise, article, or object, to wit: four (4) .380 caliber pistols, two (2) 7.62x39mm caliber firearms, and a 9mm caliber pistol., contrary to any law or regulation of the United States, namely, without a license or written approval from the United States Department of Commerce, as required by Title 50, United States Code, Sections 4819 and Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 730-774.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 554(a) and 2.

**Count Thirteen**

On or about December 6, 2022 through on or about February 16, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants,

**VANESSA RAMOS-BARRERA**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jurors, to conspire to purchase any firearm in or otherwise affecting interstate or foreign commerce for, on behalf of, or at the request or demand of any other person, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such other person intends to use, carry, possess, sell or otherwise dispose of the firearm in furtherance of a felony, namely violations of Title 18 United States Code Section 554.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 932(b)(2).

**Count Fourteen**

On or about January 24, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendants,

[REDACTED]

knowingly aided and abetted the making of a false statement and representation to Glick Twins, a federally licensed firearm dealer in Pharr, Texas, with respect to information required to be kept in the records of said federally licensed firearms dealer, in Vanessa Ramos-Barrera did execute a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Form 4473, Firearms Transaction Record, in connection with the acquisition of a Taurus, Model TX22, .22LR caliber pistol and a Ruger, Model LCP, .380 caliber pistol by representing on the Form 4473 that she was the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm when in truth and fact she was not the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(a)(1)(A).

**Count Fifteen**

On or about December 13, 2022, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendant,

**CARLOS ENRIQUE ACOSTA**

knowingly being a felon, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, namely Robbery in cause number CR-4174-18-J in the 430th Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County, Texas, did knowingly and unlawfully possess in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce a firearm, namely, a Smith and Wesson, Model M&P 15-22, .22LR caliber rifle.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(8).

**Count Sixteen**

From on or about July 13, 2021 through at least August 18, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

[REDACTED]

did fraudulently and knowingly receive, conceal, buy, sell, or in any manner facilitate the transportation, concealment, or sale of any merchandise, article, or object, to wit: approximately 707,000 rounds of 7.62x39mm caliber ammunition and 235,000 rounds of .223 caliber ammunition, prior to exportation, knowing the same to be intended for exportation contrary to any law or regulation of the United States, namely, without a license or written approval from the United States Department of Commerce, as required by Title 50, United States Code, Sections 4819 and Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 730-774.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 554(a) and 2.

**Count Seventeen**

From on or about August 5, 2021 and continuing through on or about August 18, 2023 in the Southern District of Texas, defendant,

[REDACTED]

did knowingly combine, conspire, and agree with each other and with other persons known and unknown to the grand jury to commit offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A), to wit: to transport, transmit, transfer, or attempt to transport, transmit, or transfer a monetary instrument or funds from a place outside the United States to or through a place inside the United States with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, namely, the smuggling of items controlled under regulations under the Export Administration Regulations listed at 15 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 730-774 contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 554.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

**Count Eighteen**

From on or about May 13, 2022 through on or about September 20, 2023, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendant,

[REDACTED]

not being a licensed dealer of firearms did willfully engage in the business of dealing in firearms, namely approximately 95 firearms.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(a)(1)(A).

**NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**

**18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1); 18 U.S.C. § 982; 21 U.S.C. § 853; 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)**

Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982 and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), the United States gives notice to defendants charged in this Second Superseding Indictment, that in the event of conviction for an offense charged in Counts 1 or 17 of this Second Superseding Indictment, the United States intends to seek forfeiture of any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, or any property traceable to such property.

The United States further gives notice to defendants charged in this Third Superseding Indictment pursuant to Title 18 United States Code, Section 924(d)(1) that in the event of conviction for an offense charged in Counts 2 through 16 and 18 of this Third Superseding Indictment, that any firearm or ammunition involved in or used in any knowing violation, including those firearms

referenced in such counts, of said offenses shall be subject to forfeiture.

**Money Judgment**

Defendants are notified that upon conviction, a monetary judgment may be imposed equal to the total value of the property subject to forfeiture.

**Substitute Assets**

Defendants are notified that in the event that property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of defendants,

- (A) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (B) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (C) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (D) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (E) has been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the total value of such property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), incorporated by reference in Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL

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FOREPERSON

ALAMDAR S. HAMDANI  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.  
3/12/2024/mm

Criminal Docket

M-23-1720-M

McALLEN Division

CR. No. M-23-1248-S3

**SEALED INDICTMENT** Filed: September 6, 2023

**SEALED SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT** Filed: October 4, 2023

**SEALED SECOND SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT** Filed: February 20, 2024

**SEALED THIRD SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT** Filed: March 19, 2024 Judge: RANDY CRANE

County: Hidalgo

Lions #: **2023R05173**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Attorneys:

ALAMDAR S. HAMDANI, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

ROBERTO LOPEZ, JR., ASST. U.S. ATTORNEY

**KEVIN URIEL GARZA**

Arrest: 10/3/23

**REBECA MALDONADO**

Bond 11/14/23: \$50,000 unsecured bond

**VANESSA RAMOS-BARRERA**

Arrest: 10/1/23

**ANASTACIO RUIZ, JR.**

Arrest: 9/29/23

**CARLOS ENRIQUE ACOSTA**

Arrest: 2/22/24

Ct. 5 Sergio J. Sanchez, Apt'd, 956-687-7700

Ct. 6 Santos Maldonado, Jr., Apt'd, 956-381-4600

Cts. 7-13 Rolando David Cantu, Apt'd, 956-322-0151

Cts. 1-4 Mervyn Milton Mosbacker, Ret'd, 713-526-2246

Cts. 2&15 Juan Sonny Palacios, Jr., Apt'd, 956-378-9680

Charge(s):

Cts. 1&17: Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(h)

Cts. 2&13: Conspiracy to Commit Straw Purchasing of Firearms

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 932(b)(2)

Cts. 3,5,12&16: Smuggling goods from the United States

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 554(a) and 2.

Ct. 4: Receipt or Possession of Unregistered Firearm

Title 26, United States Code, Sections 5841, 5845(a)(1), 5861(d), and 5871.

Cts. 6&14: Making false statements or representations with regards to firearms records

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(a)(1)(A)

Cts. 7-11: Making material false statements or representations with regards to firearms records.

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(a)(6)

Total  
Counts  
**(18)**

Penalty:

Ct. 15: A felon illegally or unlawfully possessing a firearm in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce.

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(8).

## Ct. 18 Unlicensed Dealing in Firearms

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(a)(1)(A).

Cts. 1&17: Imprisonment up to 20 yrs. and/or a fine not to exceed \$500,000.00 or twice the value of the monetary instruments or funds involved, whichever is greater, and not more than a 3 yr. SRT

Cts. 2&13: Imprisonment for not more than 25 yrs. and/or a fine not to exceed \$250,000.00 and not more than a 4 yr. SRT

Ct. 4: Imprisonment for not more than 10 yrs. and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 and not more than a 3 yr. SRT

Cts. 3,5,7-12, &16: Imprisonment for not more than 10 yrs. and/or a fine not to exceed \$250,000.00 and not more than a 3 yr. SRT

Cts. 6, 14, &18: Imprisonment for not more than 5 yrs. and/or a fine not to exceed \$250,000.00 and  
not more than a 3 yr. SRT

Ct. 15: Imprisonment for not more than 15 yrs. and/or a fine not to exceed \$250,000.00 and not more than a 3 yr. SRT

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### Agency:

Homeland Security Investigations – Nicholas C. Stott – MC02VR23MC002

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives – Brenda V. Leal – 782115-23-0046

## Proceedings

Date